

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 1700

Application No. 09/777,603

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In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of February 7, 2005

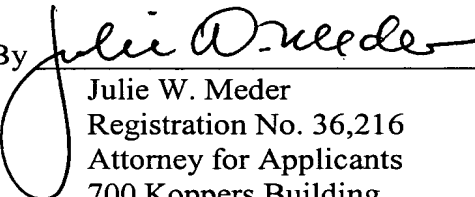
Attorney Docket No. 3576-010027

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 36 and 45 (as well as claims dependent therefrom) were indicated as being allowable if limited to citric acid as the carboxylic acid used in the claimed process and method. Claims 36 and 45 have been amended accordingly. Dependent claims 37, 42, 43, 46, 51 and 52 have been amended for consistency with independent claims 36 and 45. Claims 39-41, 44 and 48-50 have been cancelled. Allowance of remaining claims 36-38, 42-43, 45-47 and 51-53 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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